(d) As a result of the process of economic growth and development the share of Agriculture Sector in GDP tends to decline. The continuous decline in the share of Agriculture is due to the continued higher growth that has been taking place in the other sectors of the economy

Production of Coarse Grains and Fodder Crops in Gujarat

*372. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central scheme for increasing production and productivity of coarse grains and fodder crops is being implemented in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what results have, so far, been achieved in the State in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To supplement the efforts of the State Government to increase the production and productivity of coarse cereals and fodder crops, the following schemes are being implemented in Gujarat State:—

I. Coarse Grains:—

(i) Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Accelearated Maize Development Programme.

(iii) Central Sector Minikit Demonstration Programme on Coarse Cereals.

II. Fodder Crops:—

(i) Central Sector Scheme of Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development.

Under the Coarse Cereals Programmes, incentives to the farmers are provided on the distribution of seeds, farm implements and sprinkler sets so as to motivate them to adopt improved production technologies. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers trainings are organised for effective transfer of crop production technologies. Seed Minikits of newly released hybrid/high yielding varieties are distributed to the farmers to popularise them.

Under the Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation, the Central and Regional Stations produce fodder seed and undertake training, demonstration and distribution of fodder minikits. Assistance is provided to States on strengthening of fodder seed production farms, establishment of fodder banks, seed production through registered growers, enrichment of straw and cellulosic wastes, silvipasture/grass land development to increase fodder production.

(c) As a result of implementation of various programme, the productivity of coarse cereals in Gujarat has increased to 1105 kg/ha in 1998-99 from 845 kg/ha in 1980-81. Besides, many high yielding fodder crops were popularised and adopted by farmers to enhance production of animal produce.

Strengthening of Plant Quarantine Measures

*373. DR. GOPAL RAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have entered into an agreement to strengthen plant quarantine measures in India and in South Asia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;